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AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE MID-TERM
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS NEW AGENDA FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA IN THE 1990s
New York, 16-20 September 1996
Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

DRAFT REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS NEW AGENDA FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA IN THE 1990s

Rapporteur: Mr. DUSÁN ROVENSKY (Czech Republic)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 50/160 A of 22 December 1995, decided that the Ad Hoc Committee was the most appropriate mechanism to prepare the mid-term review in 1996 of the implementation of the New Agenda, as provided for in the annex to resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991. In response to the above-mentioned General Assembly resolution and following the organizational session of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole held on 20 June 1996, the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s conducted its work from 16 to 20 September 1996.

2. It will be recalled that, in order to conduct the review, the Ad Hoc Committee, at its organizational session, had decided to recommend to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session that it meets during the Assembly's fifty-first session. For that purpose, it also recommended that the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee for the period set out in paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 50/160 be extended.

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3. It will be recalled that, at its organizational session, the Ad Hoc Committee had decided to establish two working groups. Working Group I would deal with the assessment of national efforts based on relevant inputs from African countries and Working Group II with the response of the international community, including the United Nations system, and the necessary measures to accelerate and improve the implementation of the New Agenda.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening and duration of the session

4. The Ad Hoc Committee held the mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 16 to 20 September 1996. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole held _____ meetings (1st to ___ meetings) and a number of informal meetings.

5. The session was opened and chaired by Mr. Hisashi Owada, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations who made an opening statement.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed the Committee of the Whole, as well as the Special Coordinator for Economic and Social Development.

7. At the same meeting, statements were also made by Cameroon (on behalf of the African Group), Ireland (on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland and Slovenia), Namibia, Uganda and Côte d'Ivoire.

8. At the 2nd meeting, on 16 September 1996, statements were made by the representatives of Egypt, Senegal, Burkina Faso, China, Pakistan, Norway, Zimbabwe, Tunisia, Guinea, South Africa and Indonesia.

9. At the same meeting, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund made a statement.

10. At the same meeting, the spokesperson for non-governmental organizations made a statement.

11. Also at the same meeting, the observer of the Global Coalition for Africa made a statement.

12. At the 3rd meeting, on 17 September 1996, statements were made by the representatives of Costa Rica (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Nigeria, India, Malta, Madagascar, the Niger, Guyana, the Russian Federation, Canada, Japan, Algeria, the United States, Ghana, Jamaica, Mali, Ethiopia, Brazil, the Gambia and Malaysia.

13. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Nations Children's Fund made a statement.

B. Attendance

14. The following Member States were represented: Algeria, Angola, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, China, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

15. The following intergovernmental organization participated as observers: African Development Bank and the Organization of African Unity. The Global Coalition for Africa also participated as an observer.

16. The following entities of the United Nations system were represented: Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat); the World Bank; International Monetary Fund (IMF); International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

17. The following non-governmental organizations participated as observers: Association du Comité des Habitants d'El Mourouj 2, Church World Service/Lutheran World Relief Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU), Lolonyo Women's Club, Partnership Africa Canada (PAC), The African Forum, Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD), The League for Woman and Child Education, Trickle Up Programme, Ukimwi Orphans Assistance (UOA), World View.

C. Adoption of the agenda

18. The Ad Hoc Committee adopted the following agenda at its mid-term review:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of the Rapporteur.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
4. Participation of non-governmental organizations.
5. Conduct of the mid-term review.
6. Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee.

D. Election of the Bureau

19. At its organizational session on 20 June 1996, the following officers were elected by acclamation:

Chairman: Mr. Hisashi OWADA (Japan)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Alex REYN (Belgium)
Mr. Denis DANGUE REWAKA (Gabon)
Mr. Samuel R. INSANALLY (Guyana)

20. At its 1st meeting, on 16 September 1996, the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole elected, by acclamation, Mr. Dusan Rovensky (Czech Republic) as Rapporteur.

E. Organization of work

21. At its 1st meeting, on 16 September 1996, the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole approved its agenda, as orally corrected and its organization of work.

22. Working Group I held informal consultations on 16 and 18 September 1996, and Working Group II held informal consultations on 17 and 18 September 1996.

Documentation

23. The Ad Hoc Committee had before it the following documentation:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (A/51/228);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on estimates of projected resource requirements for the full implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (A/51/228/Add.1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on accreditation of non-governmental organizations to participate in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee (A/AC.251/5).

Additional background/information documents were also provided:

Report of the Organization of African Unity on the assessment of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa;

Report of the Common Fund for Commodities on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/142;

Report entitled "Partners in progress - Africa and the international community", on the assessment of the implementation of the New Agenda and the Tokyo Declaration;

Report on the seminar on the implementation of the New Agenda, held at Tokyo on 27 and 28 August 1996;

Report on the emerging role of non-governmental organizations in African sustainable development.

F. Appointment of Chairpersons of Working Groups

24. At its organizational session, on 20 June 1996, the Committee endorsed the appointments of Vice-Chairmen Mr. Samuel Insanally (Guyana) to preside over Working Group I and Vice-Chairman Mr. Alex Reyn (Belgium) to preside over Working Group II.

G. Participation of non-governmental organizations

25. At its organizational session, the Ad Hoc Committee decided to grant maximum participation to non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and other non-governmental organizations that had been contributing to the implementation of the New Agenda, in conformity with established rules and accepted practices.

26. During its meeting on 23 July 1996, the Bureau decided that non-governmental organizations would be allowed to be present in formal meetings, and that they could make a statement each at the opening and the closing sessions. Non-governmental organizations were also asked to nominate four delegates (two African and two non-African) to participate in each of the two Working Groups as observers.

27. At its 1st meeting, on 16 September 1996, the Ad Hoc Committee endorsed the decision of the Bureau regarding the participation of the non-governmental organizations. In this connection, also at the 1st meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement.